



Addendum to the General Plan Environmental Impact Report

El Dorado County General Plan Safety Element Update
El Dorado County, California

SCH No. 2001082030

Prepared for:

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Table of Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	3
	1.1 Background	3
	1.2 Previous Environmental Review	3
	1.3 Overview of the Safety Element Update	3
	1.4 Purpose of an EIR Addendum	5
	1.5 Scope of the Addendum	6
2.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	7
	2.1 Project Overview	7
	2.2 Project Location	7
	2.3 Project Setting	7
	2.4 Program Background	9
	2.5 Goals and Objectives	12
	2.6 Policy Statements	14
	2.7 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM	25
	2.8 Required Actions	26
3.0	CEQA Analysis	26
	3.1 Environmental Analysis	26
	3.2 Finding	28
4.0	REFERENCES	30
5.0	REPORT PREPARATION	30

Tables

Table 2-1 Policy Changes in the Proposed Safety Element Update

Figures

Figure 2-1 El Dorado County General Plan

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
amsl	above mean sea level
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAMP	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership
CCR	Code of California Regulations
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CVA	Climate Vulnerability Assessment
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
EDCWA	El Dorado County Water Agency
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LTBMU	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
MJHMP	Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
MWELO	Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
PRC	Public Resources Code
SB	Senate Bill
SEIR	Subsequent Environmental Impact Report
SRA	State Responsibility Area
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
WUI	wildland-urban interface

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2004 El Dorado County General Plan (General Plan), certified in July 2004 (State Clearinghouse Number 2001082030), addresses the proposed minor revisions to the Public Health, Safety, and Noise Element (Safety Element) of the General Plan. El Dorado County (County) is proposing the minor revisions to the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update to comply with current statutory requirements. The minor revisions integrate updated information related to natural hazards; incorporate a set of climate resiliency and adaptation strategies; and include new and revised policies related to fire hazards, geologic and seismic hazards, flooding, and evacuation accessibility.

As the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County prepared this Addendum in accordance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines to evaluate whether the minor revisions proposed to the Safety Element update were adequately examined in the General Plan EIR or whether any changes trigger supplemental or subsequent environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 or 15163. The Addendum to the County's General Plan EIR considers whether the environmental conditions today have changed such that new or substantially more severe environmental impacts would occur compared to that evaluated in the General Plan EIR. As described in the analysis for this Addendum, no changes associated with the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update, and no changes in circumstances, would trigger subsequent or supplemental review.

1.2 Previous Environmental Review

The environmental process for the General Plan involved the preparation of the following documents that are relevant to the consideration for the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update.

- Draft EIR for the El Dorado County General Plan, May 2003 ([https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/draft_environmental_impact_report_\(deir\).aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/draft_environmental_impact_report_(deir).aspx))
- Final EIR for the El Dorado County General Plan, January 2004 ([https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/final_environmental_impact_report_\(eir\).aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/final_environmental_impact_report_(eir).aspx))
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the El Dorado County General Plan, January 2004 (https://www.edcgov.us/government/planning/staffreport7-2004/documents/Att2_ExC_MMRP.pdf)
- Findings of Fact and Statement, July 2004 (https://www.edcgov.us/government/planning/staffreport7-2004/documents/Att1_ExB_Findings.pdf)
- Statement of Overriding Considerations for the General Plan, July 2004 (https://www.edcgov.us/government/planning/staffreport7-2004/documents/Att1_ExA_Overrides.pdf)

1.3 Overview of the Safety Element Update

On July 29, 2004, the County certified the Final EIR for the General Plan. Pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000, et seq.), the Final EIR evaluated the potential effects that would result from the adoption of the General Plan for the County with a planning horizon of 2025.

The General Plan serves as the primary policy document for development, providing a framework for managing and utilizing its physical, economic, and human resources. It articulates the County's intentions regarding the rights and expectations of the public, property owners, and potential investors. Through its goals, objectives, policies, and standards, the General Plan informs citizens of the County's development trajectory and outlines the responsibilities of all stakeholders in achieving these objectives. The Safety Element is one of nine elements of the County's General Plan. State law requires each city and county to adopt a general plan containing at least seven mandatory elements, including a Safety Element. Like the Housing Element, the Safety Element is one of the elements that is required by law to be updated every 8 years and it must be reviewed by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) prior to consideration for adoption.

The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element is an update to the County's existing Safety Element, which was amended four times since adoption and most recently in August 2019. The Safety Element update is not a comprehensive rewrite but would replace the existing Safety Element and serve as the County's guiding policy document that provides a framework to identify and address the County's safety concerns and mitigate natural hazard risks. Minor revisions to the Safety Element address changes to State law that require counties to review their Safety Elements when their Housing Elements or their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) are updated, at least once every 8 years. The County updated its Housing Element on August 31, 2021, which necessitated the update to the Safety Element.

As part of the 8-year update cycle, counties must include new information related to natural hazards, include a set of climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, address evacuation accessibility, and comply with statutory changes outlined in California Government Code Section 65302(g) and 65302.15 as updated by Senate Bills (SB) 1241, 379, 1035, and 99 as well as Assembly Bills (AB) 747 and 1409. California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires that safety elements contain hazard information, mapping, and goals and policies to protect communities from seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, and ground failure; tsunamis, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; other seismic hazards; flooding; wildland and urban fires; and climate change. SB 1241 requires the Safety Element address wildfire risk in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs). SB 379 and 1035 require the inclusion of a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) and integration of adaptation strategies in the Safety Element. SB 99 requires the Safety Element to identify residential developments in hazards areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. AB 747 and 1409 require the Safety Element to identify evacuation locations and routes and evaluate their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. The Safety Element was also modified to update existing conditions information; identify County issues, assets, and opportunities; and involve and integrate stakeholders and the community input as part of the update process. This proposed update covers the 2024-2032 planning period (8-year planning period).

The major changes of this Safety Element update are centered on:

- 1) Addressing wildfire risks in SRAs and VHFHSZs and developing policies to mitigate that risk;
- 2) Addressing climate change hazards and incorporating the CVA to integrate climate adaptation and resiliency strategies;
- 3) Minor revisions to existing policy statements that cover geologic and seismic hazards, flooding, emergency services, and wildfire, where necessary to be compliant with current State law;

- 4) Referencing the soon-to-be updated LHMP that will identify an evacuation route plan, evacuation locations, and evaluate the capacity, safety, and viability of the routes in the plan under a range of scenarios; and
- 5) Identifying residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes (evacuation route policies included based on input from emergency responders).

As a policy document, the proposed Safety Element update does not result in physical changes to the environment but encourages the mitigation of foreseeable risks to the County's critical assets and resources. None of the policies in the proposed Safety Element update change the existing land use pattern, as established by the General Plan land use designations and evaluated in the General Plan EIR. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update also does not modify the County's Zoning Ordinance.

1.4 Purpose of an EIR Addendum

Altered conditions, changes, or substantial additions to the description of a project that occur after certification of an EIR may require additional analysis under CEQA. The legal parameters that guide determinations on whether additional environmental documentation is required are provided in the CEQA Guidelines, which establish three mechanisms to address these changes: 1) a Subsequent EIR (SEIR); 2) a Supplement to an EIR; or 3) an Addendum to an EIR.

According to Section 15164(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, "the lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred." Section 15164(c) states that an addendum does not need to be circulated for public review. Section 15164(d) provides that the decision-making body shall consider the addendum in conjunction with the certified EIR prior to making a decision on the project. Section 15164(e) requires documentation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to Section 15162.

Section 15162(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines lists the conditions that would require the preparation of a SEIR rather than an Addendum. When an EIR has been certified for a project, no SEIR shall be prepared for that project unless the Lead Agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
 - A. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or Negative Declaration;
 - B. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

- C. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
- D. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines states that a Lead Agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR rather than a SEIR if:

1. Any of the conditions described above for Section 15162 would require the preparation of a SEIR; and
2. Only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation.

Under Section 15164, an Addendum is appropriate where a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in significant new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, consistent with California Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168.

1.5 Scope of the Addendum

Based on the criteria above and the results of the EIR evaluation, the County has determined that an Addendum to the General Plan EIR is the appropriate CEQA documentation. The EIR evaluation is intended to review relevant environmental topic areas for any changes in circumstances or substantial new information as defined under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, compared to the environmental impacts identified in the certified General Plan EIR. This will include a summary of current environmental conditions in the County and the relevant resource topics.

While the proposed Safety Element update includes new goals, policies, and implementation measures, the update does not enable future development, nor does it include specific projects. As a policy document, the proposed Safety Element update is self-mitigating as it encourages the mitigation of foreseeable risks to the County's assets and resources. None of the policies would change the existing land use pattern, as established by the General Plan land use designations. Additionally, the policy revisions do not approve specific development, and projects would have to undergo environmental review on a case-by-case basis, consistent with CEQA. Therefore, the minor revisions to the proposed Safety Element update would not result in new significant effects or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant effect requiring a major revision to the General Plan EIR.

In summary, the proposed Safety Element update would not result in 1) substantial changes that require major revisions to the previously certified Final EIR; 2) substantial changes to circumstances related to significant effects that require major revisions to the certified Final EIR; or 3) new information of substantial importance regarding more severe significant effects, mitigation measures, or alternatives that are now feasible, or new mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the certified Final EIR.

A copy of this Addendum, and supporting documentation, may be reviewed at the El Dorado County Safety Element Update webpage:

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/longrangeplanning/general-plan-safety-element->

update and in-person at the El Dorado County Planning & Building Department offices at 2850 Fairlane Court, Building C, Placerville, California 95667.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Overview

The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update conveys the County's goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures that minimize public health and safety hazards within the unincorporated areas of the County. The goal of the Safety Element update is to reduce the risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships to acceptable levels by identifying natural hazards that affect existing and future development and providing policy guidelines that protect residents, employees, visitors, and other members of the community from injury and death. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element describes the present and expected future conditions and sets policies and standards for improved public safety. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element also seeks to minimize impacts to important assets in the County, such as people; property; essential buildings, critical infrastructure, and community services; economic systems; and natural and cultural resources.

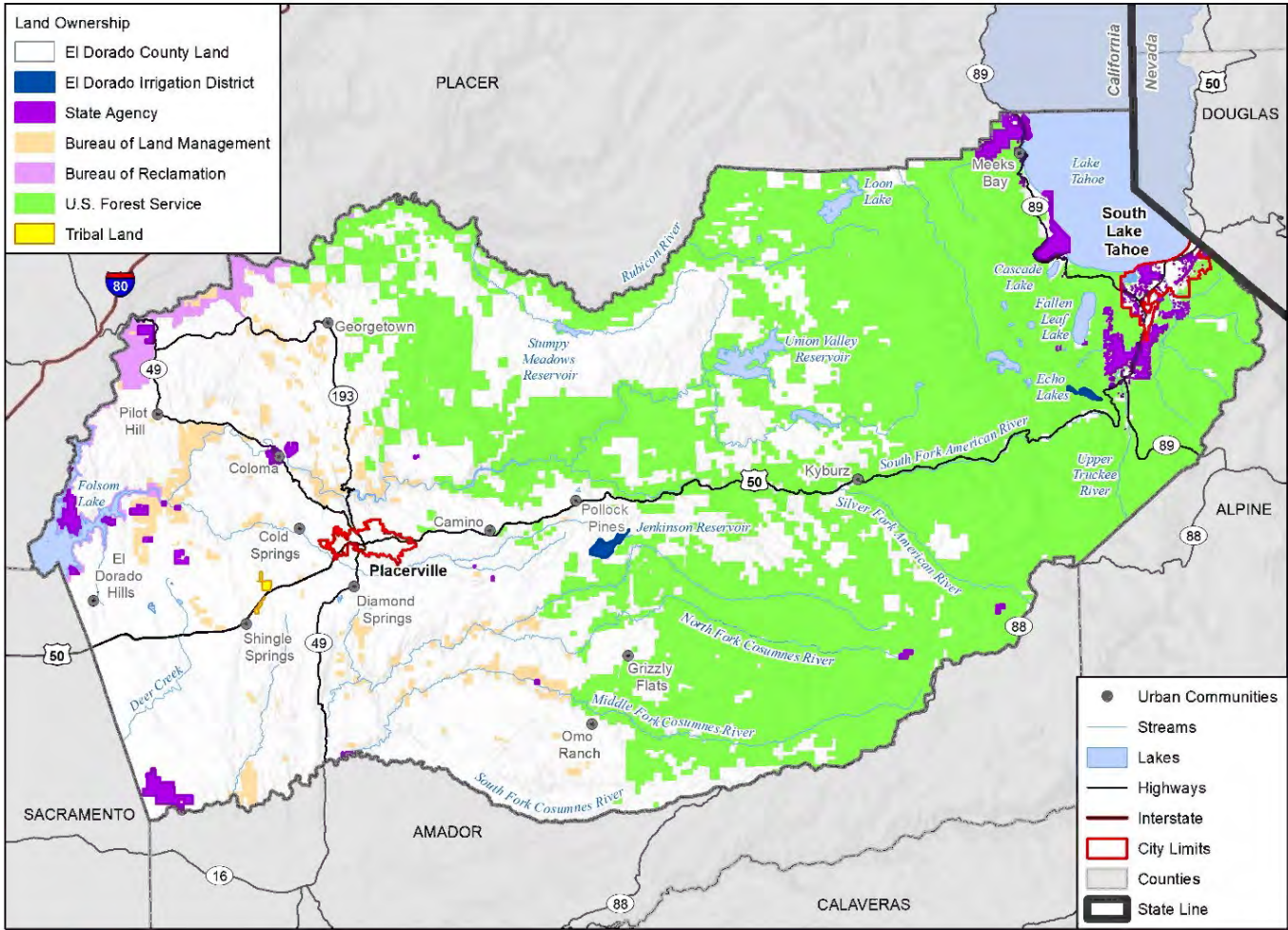
2.2 Project Location

The County is located in Northern California, bordered by Placer County to the north, Amador and Alpine counties to the south, and Sacramento County to the west; the State of Nevada borders the County to the east (see Figure 2-1). The County encompasses approximately 1,708 square miles of land and 78 square miles of water. Elevations within the County range from 850 feet above mean sea level (amsl) in the westernmost portion to over 7,200 feet amsl at some of the higher peaks in the eastern portion of the County. The County boundary spans the eastern part of the Central Valley and increases in elevation from urban western El Dorado across the Sierra Nevada crest to the high-alpine City of South Lake Tahoe and the Nevada state line.

2.3 Project Setting

The County is generally divided into two geographically distinct areas: the northeast corner of the County is within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) and the remainder of the County is in the western slope region. The Basin contains the mountainous terrain over the Sierra Nevada crest to Lake Tahoe and lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The western slope includes the rolling foothills and agricultural lands in the lower elevations near Sacramento County. The Eldorado and Tahoe National Forests cover a vast portion of land in the western portion of the County. The County is traversed by several major roadways, including U.S. Highway 50 and State Routes (SRs) 49, 88, and 89. Primary access to the County is provided by U.S. Highway 50. SR 49 provides north-south access through the western portion of the County, SR 88 provides east-west access through the southern portion of the County, and SR 89 provides north-south access through the Basin portion of the County.

Figure 2-1 El Dorado County General Plan



wsp Map compiled 4/2024;
 Intended for planning purposes only.
 Data Source: El Dorado County, BIA, Living Atlas,
 California Protected Areas Database

0 5 10 Miles



The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures would be effective throughout the unincorporated portions of the County. There are a number of areas that are under the jurisdiction of other governmental entities, including incorporated cities, state, and federal public lands, and Native American reservations. As described in the General Plan EIR, the areas outside of the County's jurisdiction are as follows:

Incorporated Cities. There are two incorporated cities in the County: City of Placerville and City of South Lake Tahoe. These incorporated areas are governed by their respective general plans.

Public Lands. The State of California and the Federal government own and manage substantial land holdings in the County. Lands under the purview of State agencies include the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Tahoe Conservancy. Federal land consists primarily of National Forest lands managed by the USFS, which include portions of the Eldorado National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, the LTBMU, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Native American Reservations. The Shingle Springs (Miwok) Rancheria and associated lands (of which the Federal government holds in trust) represents the only Native American land holding within the County. The tribal members of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians consist of Miwok, Maidu, and Nisenan Indians. The rancheria consists of 160 acres in Shingle Springs. For the purposes of the EIR analysis, the tribe is considered a sovereign nation with its own regulations and land use planning authority.

2.4 Program Background

California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires that Safety Elements contain hazard information, mapping, and goals and policies to protect communities from seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, and ground failure; tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; other seismic hazards; flooding; wildland and urban fires; and climate change. Safety Elements must also include a set of climate adaptation strategies and consider evacuation route planning, peak load water supply, and military installations. This information helps the County decide where to direct development and how to protect the community in the event there is a hazard-related emergency, such as an earthquake, flood, or wildfire. Recent legislative requirements, which modified California Government Code Sections 65302(g) and 65302.15 that are addressed in the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update are described below.

- **AB 2140.** Links LHMPs and Safety Elements by encouraging the incorporation by reference of LHMPs into Safety Elements and by tying State funding eligibility to the adoption of LHMPs into the Safety Element (2006).
- **SB 1241.** Requires a Safety Element to address wildfire risks in SRAs and VHFHSZs pursuant to Government Code §65302(g)(3), develop policies to mitigate wildfire risk, and include review by the California BOF (2012).
- **SB 379.** Requires the inclusion of a CVA and integration of adaptation strategies in the Safety Element and encourages a climate change discussion in the LHMP. A CVA must be completed if the current LHMP does not meet the requirements of Government Code Section 65302(g)(4) (2015).
- **SB 1035.** Addresses climate adaptation strategies in Safety Element and requires an update of climate data at least every 8 years (2018).

- **AB 747.** Requires a Safety Element to identify evacuation routes and evaluate their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. Requirements are in Government Code Section 65302.15 related to land use (2019).
- **SB 99.** Requires a Safety Element to identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes (2019).
- **AB 1409.** Requires the Safety Element be reviewed and updated to identify evacuation locations (2021).

The current Safety Element, last updated in August 2019, does not address the statutory requirements outlined above. Therefore, the County modernized the Safety Element and brought it into compliance with State law and integrated new and revised policies that reflect current hazard conditions and risk in the County. Since the current General Plan was adopted, the County has experienced significant natural hazard events, such as drought events, multiple wildfires, and severe winter storms that have heightened its susceptibility of future hazards. Urban expansion and population growth have led to the encroachment of residential areas into the wildland-urban interface (WUI), placing more homes and infrastructure in areas at risk of wildfire. Climate change has also played a significant role in intensifying natural hazards, with rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and altered precipitation patterns creating drier conditions conducive to wildfires. The spread of invasive species, such as the bark beetle infestations has further complicated ecosystem dynamics and vegetative fuel accumulation. Additionally, inadequate infrastructure and limited evacuation routes can hinder emergency response and leave communities and people isolated, increasing vulnerability to wildfires.

Fire Hazards

The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element fire hazard policy updates largely reflect standards and regulations that the County must already comply with, or standards and regulations the County complies with as required under the State Fire Safe Regulations. Updates to the wildfire section in the Safety Element include:

- New maps and updates to existing maps;
- Updated wildfire information such as ignition sources and causes, major wildfires, and hazard reduction measures;
- Hyperlinks to online resources and related plans, such as the LHMP, Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP);
- Updated wildfire related plans and services;
- Information on public outreach programs for defensible space and emergency preparedness;
- Measures, tools, and programs to reduce wildfire risk;
- Identification of single egress neighborhoods (pursuant to SB 99); and
- Applicable local, state, and federal codes and regulations.

The Safety Element contains updated goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures, including one revised objective and one new objective as well as six revised policies and 17 new policies that address fire hazards. Each of these policies was drafted to meet requirements in California Government Code Section 65302(g), and specifically to mitigate fire risk in SRAs and areas classified as VHFHSZs, along with other wildfire-prone areas (SB 1241). The Safety Element update also identifies existing and planned land uses within these high-risk zones, emphasizing the avoidance of wildfire hazards for new development, locating essential public facilities away from high fire risk areas, ensuring sufficient infrastructure for

new development, and specifying the local and state agencies responsible for fire protection (as defined in section 51177; SB 1241).

Climate Change Adaptation

The proposed Safety Element update addresses climate change hazards and incorporates a CVA. The findings from the CVA were used to inform the goals, objectives, policies, and programs focused on climate adaptation and resilience strategies (as mandated by SB 379). The CVA which is an appendix to the Safety Element, includes the following information:

- Information from the Internet based Cal-Adapt tool;
- Information from the most recent version of the California Adaptation Planning guide;
- Identification of local populations most sensitive to climate change exposures;
- Information regarding the ability of local agencies to deal with the impacts of climate change;
- Identification of historical data on natural events and hazards, including sites that have been repeatedly damaged; and
- Maps showing existing and planned development in at-risk areas.

The Safety Element also includes a set of adaptation and resiliency goals, objectives, and policies based on the findings in the CVA, as well as a set of feasible implementation measures. Hazards addressed by the CVA and the Safety Element include drought and water supply issues, agricultural and forestry disease, extreme heat, high wind, severe weather, human health hazards, and general climate change adaptation and resiliency. The Climate and Adaptation section of the proposed Safety Element update contains the following new policies: eight climate adaptation policies, nine drought and water supply policies, four agriculture and forestry disease policies, two extreme heat policies, one wind policy, and three severe weather policies.

The policies and implementation measures focus on the consideration of climate change impacts, adaptation strategies in long-range planning decisions, collaboration with community-based organizations and climate collaboratives, protecting vulnerable communities from climate impacts, prioritizing nature-based and natural infrastructure solutions, and promoting community awareness and public education around climate resilience. This set of policies ensures the County includes an adaptation framework in the Safety Element in compliance with SB 379.

Evacuation Planning

Evacuation planning is required to be addressed in the Safety Element, pursuant to SB 99 (2019), AB 747 (2019), and AB 1409 (2021). To meet the requirements in these bills, one objective addresses SB 99, requiring the identification of residential neighborhoods without at least two means of egress, and one objective addresses AB 747 and AB 1409, requiring the identification of evacuation locations and routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. Two policies meet the requirements laid out in SB 99, five policies meet the requirements of AB 747 and AB 1409, and one policy addresses all three legislative requirements. There is also a policy that supports the County's efforts to extend safety and evacuation information to vulnerable populations.

The background report of the proposed Safety Element includes mapping identified residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes and potential evacuation locations. It also includes a process to evaluate the capacity, safety, and viability of evacuation routes under a range of emergency scenarios in the LHMP, and a program that would ensure a capacity-based evaluation of the County's evacuation network upon each subsequent Safety Element update.

Plan Integration

These new and revised goals and policies would complement the LHMP requirements and promote plan integration (AB 2140). The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element Update would address the following topics, several of which are currently addressed in the LHMP and EOP:

- Fire Safety
- Geologic and Seismic Hazards
- Flood Hazards
- Noise
- Hazardous Materials
- Air Quality
- Aviation-Related Hazards
- Highway Safety
- Drought and water supply
- Evacuation Accessibility
- Agricultural and Forestry Disease and Tree Mortality
- Extreme Heat
- Human Health Hazards
- High Wind
- Severe Weather
- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Of these topics, fire safety, geologic and seismic hazards, flood hazards, noise, hazardous materials, air quality, aviation-related hazards, and highway safety were addressed in the existing Safety Element. New topics covered in the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update include all the existing topics, in addition to drought and water supply, evacuation accessibility, agricultural and forestry disease and tree mortality, extreme heat, human health hazards, high wind, severe weather, and climate adaptation and resiliency. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update also only updated goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures for natural hazards. Of the other hazards covered in the element, six additional policies would be added to the existing geologic and seismic hazards section, eight new human-health policies would be added, and one additional policy would be added to the existing flood section on dam inundation. There were no revisions to the noise, hazardous materials, air quality, aviation-related hazards, or highway safety policies other than minor clean up edits.

2.5 Goals and Objectives

According to the State of California General Plan Guidelines, the goal of the Safety Element is "to reduce the potential short and long-term risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other hazards." The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update identifies health and safety concerns in the unincorporated areas of the County and lays out goals and policies to protect the community. As a required element of the General Plan, the proposed Safety Element update provides a long-term framework on how the County will grow and keep communities and their assets safe through hazard identification and development of goals, policies, and implementation measures focused on hazard risk reduction and avoidance.

The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update retains existing goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures from the current Safety Element, and adds new and revised goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures.

The new and revised goals and objectives are summarized as follows:

- **Goal 6.1: Coordination.** A coordinated approach to hazard and disaster response planning.
 - Objective 6.1.2: Expand community resilience to support effective emergency response and recovery during and after emergency events.
- **Goal 6.2: Fire Hazards.** Minimize fire hazards and risks in both wildland and developed areas.
 - Objective 6.2.1: All existing and new development and structures shall meet “defensible space” requirements to minimize wildland fire hazards.
 - Objective 6.2.6: Ensure fire preparedness and response through inter-agency and multi-governmental cooperation.
- **Goal 6.3: Geologic and Seismic Hazards.** Minimize the threat to life and property from seismic and geologic hazards.
 - Objective 6.3.1: Adopt and enforce development regulations, including building and site standards, to avoid social dislocations, which refer to the disruption or displacement of communities, and protect against seismic and geologic hazards.
 - Objective 6.3.2: Continue to evaluate seismic related hazards such as liquefaction, landslides, avalanche, and seiche particularly in the Basin.
- **Goal 6.10: Management of Water Resources.** Provide a resilient water supply that will meet the demand of residents, businesses, and visitors.
 - Objective 6.10.1: Promote cost-effective water conservation and water efficiency measures.
 - Objective 6.10.2: Promote sustainable water management measures.
- **Goal 6.11: Evacuation Routes.** Identify and maintain adequate evacuation routes in the incorporated and unincorporated County.
 - Objective 6.11.1: Identify and analyze emergency evacuation routes and areas without at least two evacuation routes.
 - Objective 6.11.2: Ensure viability of future use of evacuation routes.
- **Goal 6.12: Agricultural And Forestry Disease.** Increase resistance to pests and disease on agricultural and forest lands.
 - Objective 6.12.1: Increase resiliency against agricultural and forestry disease and tree mortality.
 - Objective 6.12.1: Remove potential hazard trees to reduce disease spread and wildfire fuel.
- **Goal 6.13: Extreme Heat Hazards.** Create an effective regulatory system to minimize injury and damage due to extreme heat events.
 - Objective 6.13.1: Mitigate heat-health effects.
- **Goal 6.14: Human Health Hazards.** Protect public health and safety through preventative intervention.

- Objective 6.14.1: Provide preventative public health services.
- Objective 6.14.2: Protect public health and safety through preventive intervention.
- **Goal 6.15: High Wind.** Reduce impacts to people and property from high wind events.
 - Objective 6.15.1.1: Enforce building codes that protect structures against high winds.
- **Goal 6.16: Severe Weather.** Reduce impacts to people and property caused by severe weather events.
 - Objective 6.16.1: Infrastructure.
 - Objective 6.16.2: Education and outreach.
- **Goal 6.17: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.** Ensure the County can adapt to the hazards created or exacerbated by climate change.
 - Objective 6.17.1: Minimize the risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change.

2.6 Policy Statements

The proposed Safety Element update consists of policies organized by hazard topics. A policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making. It indicates a commitment of the local legislative body to a particular course of action. Policies help implement a general plan's vision and are carried out by implementation measures. While most of the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures from the current Safety Element are carried forward into the proposed Safety Element update, new and revised policies are depicted and shown in underline text and ~~strikeout~~ text is used to indicate deletions.

The current Safety Element has a total of 73 policies and 24 implementation measures. The proposed Safety Element update would include 139 policies and 41 implementation measures, which amounts to 66 new policies, 6 revised policies, and 17 new implementation measures. Most of the new policies and implementation measures were included to meet statutory requirements, and most of the wildfire requirements and standards are already being implemented by the County. Out of the proposed 66 new policies, there are 29 that the County has discretion over or flexibility to revise and are not required by State law or are not currently being implemented by the County. The remaining 37 proposed policies are mandated by the State and are mostly under the discretion of the California BOF. Key policy revisions focus on mitigating wildfire risks, integrating climate adaptation strategies, and referencing updates to the LHMP for evacuation route planning and evaluating evacuation locations and route capacity, safety, and viability under different scenarios. New policies also focus on identifying residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes and reducing impacts associated with other climate-related hazards, such as agricultural and forestry disease and extreme heat.

Table 2-1 includes the new and modified policies from the proposed Safety Element update, in addition to the implementation measures that carry out each policy.

Table 2-1 Policy Changes in the Proposed Safety Element Update

Section	Policy Statement	Implementation Measure
General	<p>Policy 6.1.2.1 <u>Support an emergency mass evacuation and sheltering plan that prioritizes the needs of at-risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged people and individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs, and other special needs by providing meaningful opportunities in emergency planning efforts.</u></p>	Measure HS-BB, Measure HS-MM, Measure HS-NN
Fire Hazards	<p>Policy 6.2.1.3 <u>Require all existing and new residential development in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and/or very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs) to enforce fire-resistant landscaping and defensible space requirements that meet or exceed Title 14, Code of California Regulations (CCR), Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270) (State Minimum Fire Safe regulations) and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction around Buildings and Structures Regulations). Adequate compliance with these requirements shall be determined by the local Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) or other local fire agencies, as appropriate.</u></p>	Measure HS-Y
	<p>Policy 6.2.1.4 <u>Require consistency with fire code and development standards that ensure adequate defensible space clearance around all existing and new structures in compliance with the California Fire Code, Public Resources Code Section 4291 (ember-resistant zone), Government Code Section 51175-51188, CCR Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Section 1299.03, and in the County Code of Ordinances Chapter 8.09.</u></p>	Measure HS-Y
	<p>Policy 6.2.1.5 <u>Maintain and enforce the County Defensible Space Ordinance and Fire Prevention Programs and Plans in coordination with local the VHFHSZs and other fire agencies and continue to support related fire prevention programs associated with defensible space inspections as detailed in County Code of Ordinances Chapter 8.09, fire development standards, and public education.</u></p>	Measure HS-Y
	<p>Policy 6.2.2.2 The County shall preclude development, including public facilities and essential services (see definition in the Background Information Report in Appendix B), in areas of high and very high wildland fire hazard or in areas identified as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities within the vicinity of Federal lands that are a high risk for wildfire, as listed in the Federal Register Executive Order 13728 of May 18, 2016, unless such development can be adequately protected from wildland fire hazard, as demonstrated in a WUI Fire Safe Plan prepared by a qualified professional as approved by the El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officers Association. The WUI Fire Safe Plan shall be approved by the local FPD having jurisdiction and/or CAL FIRE. (Resolution 124- 2019, August 6, 2019)</p>	Measure HS-B
	<p>Policy 6.2.2.3 <u>In the event of a major fire (defined as greater than 500 acres), the County shall evaluate redevelopment within the impacted fire areas to comply with current Fire Safe Regulations and related County standards. All development shall meet or exceed the County's Building Code, and conform to the State Fire Safe Regulations through application of the Fire Code and wildfire development standards pertaining to fuel modification and defensible space, Public Resources Code 4290, and Title 14 California Code of Regulations 1270-1276.04 referenced on the</u></p>	Measure HS-B

	<p>County's Building Services webpage, in addition to any applicable updates required at the state level, except where alternative building codes apply pursuant to County ordinance.</p>	
	<p>Policy 6.2.3.1 As a requirement for approving new development, the County must find, based on information provided by the applicant and the responsible fire protection district- FPD that, concurrent with development, adequate emergency <u>and peak load water supply</u>, water flow, fire access, and firefighting personnel and equipment will be available in accordance with applicable State and local fire district standards <u>to support fire suppression efforts</u>.</p>	<p>Measure HS-B</p>
	<p>Policy 6.2.3.5 <u>Identify actions to ensure noncompliant development meets current fire safe standards and road standards as defined in Title 14 CCR, Division 1.5, Chapter 7 Fire Protection, Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5, SRA Fire Safe Regulations through the WUI Fire Safe Plan review process and through collaboration with the FPDs and local fire agencies when reviewing Fire Protection Plans and provisions for new development.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-B, Measure HS-OO</p>
	<p>Policy 6.2.3.6 All new development within an SRA or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZs) shall prepare a Fire Protection Plan that <u>complies with established fire safety standards. Ingress and egress to the new development will be constructed utilizing the most current State Fire Safe Regulations, Fire Code, and/or County Code that meets these minimum requirements. Key components of a Fire Protection Plan include:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>risk analysis;</u> 2) <u>fire response capabilities;</u> 3) <u>fire safety requirements – defensible space, infrastructure, and building ignition resistance;</u> 4) <u>mitigation measures and design considerations for non-conforming fuel modification;</u> 5) <u>wildfire education, maintenance, and limitations; and evacuation planning.</u> <p>Existing development within an SRA or VHFHSZ can meet these requirements through retro-fitting and home hardening.</p>	<p>Measure HS-B, Measure HS-OO</p>
	<p>Policy 6.2.3.7 <u>Enforce the most recent California Uniform Building Code Fire Code to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fires and explosions; dangerous conditions arising from the storage, handling, and use of hazardous materials and devices; and hazardous conditions in the use or occupancy of building or premises.</u></p>	
	<p>Policy 6.2.4.2 The County shall cooperate with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection districts <u>CAL FIRE and local FPDs</u> to identify opportunities for fuel breaks in zones of high and very high fire hazard either prior to or as a component of project review <u>and will support the fire protections in tracking grants to fund fire breaks and their long-term maintenance.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-B</p>
	<p>Policy 6.2.4.3</p>	<p>Measure HS-B</p>

	<p>Require fuel modification around homes and subdivision developments in SRAs or VHFHSZs by assisting the local FPDs and other local fire agencies.</p>	
	<p>Policy 6.2.4.4 <u>Continue to work cooperatively and promote advocacy efforts with the US Forest Service, CAL FIRE, local FPDs, and other local fire agencies in managing wildfire hazards.</u></p>	Measure HS-B
	<p>Policy 6.2.4.5 The County shall encourage other entities in their efforts to utilize biomass and expand biomass facilities as a way to reduce forest fuel loads and wildfire hazard risk.</p>	Measure HS-B, Measure HS-KK
	<p>Policy 6.2.6.1 <u>To ensure coordinated wildfire planning and response, applicable CWPPs shall be implemented and consulted for all wildfire planning and disaster response within the County. The CWPPs listed in Table HS - 2 cover sections of both the incorporated and unincorporated County and will be incorporated by reference to the Safety Element.</u></p>	Measure HS-A
	<p>Policy 6.2.6.2 <u>Partner with local fire agencies, state and federal agencies, and other local agencies and organizations within the County to regularly update and implement the Western El Dorado County and Tahoe Basin CWPPs.</u></p>	Measure HS-A
	<p>Policy 6.2.6.3 <u>All County-area FPDs, the County Sheriff's Department, and Office of Emergency Services, Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience, and other emergency services and response staff shall attend regular inter-agency training programs to effectively coordinate and provide multi-agency mutual aid in the event of a wildfire or other hazard occurrence.</u></p>	Measure HS-A
	<p>Policy 6.2.6.4 <u>Prepare future conditions studies which are comprehensive assessments of projected demographic, infrastructure, and environmental factors at smaller scales in unincorporated parts of the County that may be susceptible to evacuation constraints. These studies will aim to evaluate the specific viability and capacity of the local road and street networks serving existing and new residential developments.</u></p>	Measure HS-A
	<p>Policy 6.2.6.5 <u>Routinely evaluate the ability of the County's essential fire and law enforcement facilities to function after a major disaster and as part of new development review to ensure adequate access for future emergency needs.</u></p>	Measure HS-A, Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-FF, Measure HS-00
Geologic And Seismic Hazards	<p>Policy 6.3.1.4 <u>Enforce the California Uniform Building Code and general building design and construction requirements related to life safety to address seismic risks associated with ground shaking.</u></p>	Measure HS-D, Measure HS-G

	<p>Policy 6.3.1.5 <u>Prohibit the construction of buildings near active faults in Earthquake Fault Zones unless a geologic investigation is performed to delineate hazards associated with surface fault ruptures and appropriate mitigation actions, based on the investigation, are included in the project design.</u></p>	Measure HS-D
	<p>Policy 6.3.1.6 <u>Require that linear projects, including roads, streets, highways, electrical transmission and distribution corridors, water facilities, and underground oil and gas facilities avoid intersecting active faults to the extent possible. When such locations are unavoidable, the project design shall include measures to minimize the effects of fault movement.</u></p>	Measure HS-D
	<p>Policy 6.3.2.5 <u>Require geotechnical reports that demonstrate adequate slope stability and construction methods for buildings and road improvements that are on slopes greater than 50 percent pursuant to the California Building Code (CBC) Appendix J: Grading Section 108.1-3 on setbacks.</u></p>	Measure HS-D, Measure HS-G
	<p>Policy 6.3.2.6 <u>Development in mapped high landslide susceptibility and debris flow hazard areas shall require a geotechnical investigation and shall incorporate appropriate mitigation into the project design.</u></p>	Measure HS-D
	<p>Policy 6.3.2.7 <u>Consider the inclusion of seiche hazard areas within the Lake Tahoe Basin during the update of Area Plans and require development in potential seiche hazard areas to perform a geotechnical engineering investigation and mandate the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures, based on the investigation, into the project design.</u></p>	Measure HS-D
Flood Hazards	<p>Policy 6.4.1.1 <u>Continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and application of flood plain zoning regulations <u>to qualify for flood insurance and disaster assistance.</u></u></p>	Measure HS-H
	<p>Policy 6.4.1.6 <u>Encourage the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE, and other agencies and organizations to work together to treat areas burned by wildfires by planting fire-resistant vegetation to prevent erosion, protect soils, and to control stormwater runoff prior to winter storms, and areas prone to rock slides, mudslides, and landslides.</u></p>	Measure HS-HH
	<p>Policy 6.4.2.3</p>	Measure HS-HH

	<u>Coordinate with the El Dorado Irrigation District, the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, the Cameron Park Community Services District, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and other dam owners and operators to ensure there are plans in place for flood protection and to address risks associated with dam incidents.</u>	
Management of Water Resources	Policy 6.10.1.1 <u>Encourage structural and nonstructural flood management methods to enhance water storage and groundwater recharge.</u>	Measure HS-CC, Measure HS-DD
	Policy 6.10.1.2 <u>Continue to enforce the County Landscape and Irrigation Standards, where applicable, including parking lot shading; incorporating stormwater best management practices into landscape areas; requiring water conservation methods that encourage the use of native, drought tolerant species; and promoting knowledge of Appendix C to the Standards, El Dorado County Drought Resistant Plant List, to encourage use in private development).</u>	Measure HS-CC, Measure HS-DD
	Policy 6.10.1.3 <u>Require new development to demonstrate that adequate water is available before project approval and to fund its fair-share costs associated with the provision of water service.</u>	Measure HS-CC
	Policy 6.10.1.4 <u>Support the integrated management of surface and groundwater, stormwater treatment and use, and the treatment and reuse of wastewater, where feasible.</u>	Measure HS-CC
	Policy 6.10.1.5 <u>Enforce the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) for new development and retrofitted landscapes, as referenced by Title 24, Part 11, Chapters 4 and 5 of the CalGreen Building Code.</u>	Measure HS-G, Measure HS-CC
	Policy 6.10.2.1 <u>Encourage water suppliers, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to track and monitor the quantity and quality of the County's water resources to ensure a sustainable water supply that serves existing and future residents, businesses, agricultural users, government services, and natural resources.</u>	Measure HS-CC
	Policy 6.10.2.2 <u>Support the diversification of water supplies from varied sources that contribute to a sustainable and diverse water supply and storage portfolio that includes, but is not limited to surface water, groundwater, recycled water, imported water, and stormwater, if these sources protect public health and natural resources.</u>	Measure HS-DD

	<p>Policy 6.10.2.3 <u>Support regional and local water planning efforts led by the El Dorado County Water Agency, El Dorado Irrigation District, and other water agencies and water suppliers by participating on committees and advisory groups to coordinate planning efforts related to water and land use planning decisions that may include the Urban Water Management Plan, Groundwater Sustainability Plans, the Regional Drought Contingency Plan, County-wide water resources development and management programs, and other local integrated regional water management plans.</u></p>	Measure HS-GG
	<p>Policy 6.10.2.4 <u>Participate on County Drought Task Force and partner on regional drought contingency planning efforts to reduce the potential for future water shortages by cooperating with water agencies and suppliers on surface water augmentation storage projects, surface water diversions to secure water supply to smaller communities, groundwater augmentation to ensure redundant supplies when surface water supplies are limited, and to improve water infrastructure so that water is easily transferred between water agencies when supplies are constrained.</u></p>	Measure HS-GG
<p>Evacuation Routes</p>	<p>Policy 6.11.1.1 <u>Continue to improve transportation corridors that support effective evacuation routes and access for the public and emergency responders by identifying residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes and work with affected residents to help prepare them to anticipate their evacuation alternatives (e.g., public transit, carpooling, shelter in place).</u></p>	Measure HS-Z, Measure HS-LL
	<p>Policy 6.11.1.2 <u>Identify rural neighborhoods, mobile home parks, including senior communities, and public facilities that support at-risk populations (at-risk population facilities include, without limitation, pre-schools, public and private primary and secondary schools, before and after school care centers with 12 or more students, daycare centers with 12 or more children, group homes, and assisted living residential or congregate care facilities with 12 or more residents) that are located within an area classified as an SRA (Public Resources Code Section 4102) or land classified as a VHFHSZ with limited accessibility or a single access point and implement an evacuation plan that consists of evacuation zones, routes, or shelter-in-place plans depending on the hazard event.</u></p>	Measure HS-Z, Measure HS-LL, Measure HS-MM
	<p>Policy 6.11.1.3 <u>Identify and communicate safe and viable evacuation routes in multiple languages and across various communication platforms, as appropriate, to reach at-risk and vulnerable populations.</u></p>	Measure HS-Z
	<p>Policy 6.11.2.1 <u>Development shall be served by a street system with at least two evacuation routes capable of carrying peak load traffic and have sufficient capacity to meet project needs, or they must provide the necessary capacity to ensure the development has adequate fire protection and</u></p>	Measure HS-Z

	<p><u>safe ingress and egress routes in conformance with the California Fire Safe Regulations (Section 1273 and 1274) of the California Code of Regulations – Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3).</u></p>	
	<p>Policy 6.11.2.2</p> <p><u>Construction of new roads, streets, and evacuation routes must be adequate in terms of width, turning radius, and grade to facilitate access by firefighting apparatus. Priorities for road improvements will be based on evacuation accessibility.</u></p>	Measure HS-Z
	<p>Policy 6.11.2.3</p> <p><u>Evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios will be identified in the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) update, which will then be incorporated by reference into the Safety Element. The County shall work with emergency service agencies to evaluate the evacuation route, capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios to facilitate fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services and resident ingress and egress, consistent with the goals and objectives of the County's MJHMP.</u></p>	Measure HS-W, Measure HS-Z, Measure HS-FF
	<p>Policy 6.11.2.4</p> <p><u>Continue to coordinate with the County Sheriff's Department, CAL FIRE, local FPDs, and other fire agencies to identify, assess, and maintain evacuation routes to support the adequate capacity, safety, and viability of those routes under a range of emergency scenarios. Identify designated evacuation routes that are not compliant with Fire Safe Regulations (14 CCR Section 1270.00) for roadway standards and develop a plan to bring those roads into conformance to promote adequate and safe accessibility in communities.</u></p>	Measure HS-W, Measure HS-Z, Measure HS-FF
	<p>Policy 6.11.2.5</p> <p><u>Collaborate with Fire Safe Councils, Community Organizations, and other local fire agencies to support the long-term maintenance of fire breaks surrounding roads and the continued clearance of private and public roads.</u></p>	Measure HS-Z, Measure HS-FF
Agricultural and Forestry Disease Safety	<p>Policy 6.12.1.1</p> <p><u>Use science-based approaches to evaluate, understand, and protect against the negative impacts of new and emerging threats such as climate change, pests, disease outbreaks, or land use changes on forest health and public safety, including the buildup of hazardous fuel conditions and resulting fire behavior.</u></p>	Measure HS-JJ
	<p>Policy 6.12.1.2</p> <p><u>Continue to work with federal and state agencies to support fuel and pest management activities on federal and state lands, including areas impacted by bark beetle and other pests.</u></p>	Measure HS-KK
	<p>Policy 6.12.2.1</p> <p><u>Seek funding opportunities to support reduction in the rate of spread of forest diseases and removal of dead and dying trees.</u></p>	Measure HS-KK

	Policy 6.12.2.2 <u>Explore opportunities to locate facilities in the County that can store and process bark beetle-infested wood and debris from forest fuel clearing activities into useful products and biomass.</u>	Measure HS-KK
Extreme Heat	Policy 6.13.1.1 <u>Support the opening of cooling centers during heat events and coordinate with transit providers to ensure adequate access for vulnerable communities.</u>	Measure HS-BB
	Policy 6.13.1.2 <u>Continue to publicize precautions for preventing heat-health effects to the most vulnerable populations such as seniors, outdoor workers, children, and those living in poverty.</u>	Measure HS-BB, Measure HS-MM
Human Health Hazards	Policy 6.14.1.1 <u>Provide and promote through a comprehensive public health infrastructure equitable access to focused clinical preventive health services, including but not limited to vaccine preventable disease mitigation, select adult and pediatric vaccination, communicable disease assessment, investigation and treatment, post-exposure assessment and treatment of vector borne disease.</u>	Measure HS-EE
	Policy 6.14.1.2 <u>Continue to provide vector control services to the El Dorado Vector Control District.</u>	Measure HS-EE
	Policy 6.14.1.3 <u>Facilitate and support continued development and access to an effective and quality driven community primary care network promoting self-care management through comprehensive coordination and ongoing partnerships with community hospitals, tribal health centers, federally qualified health centers, school-based health services and rural designated community clinics.</u>	Measure HS-EE
	Policy 6.14.1.4 <u>Facilitate and coordinate MediCal Managed Care expansion at the local level. Leverage the introduction of a public MediCal managed care plan offering to El Dorado County residents with the intent of increasing and improving available services and healthy outcomes. Facilitate and coordinate a health data assessment specific to preventive service utilization and a health outcome response with the three MediCal Managed Care Plans active.</u>	Measure HS-EE
	Policy 6.14.1.5 <u>Facilitate ways to identify, mitigate and educate on the dangers of lead exposure to human health and sources of those exposures, including but not limited to sub-standard housing and environmental, occupational, recreational exposure pathways.</u>	Measure HS-EE
	Policy 6.14.2.1	Measure HS-EE

	<p><u>Integrate health impact evaluation that considers harmful as well as protective health effects for all intragovernmental County government policy development. Facilitate community-level dialog focusing on prevention as a means to mitigate human-health hazard with all local government agencies, special districts, and community-based organizations and supporting health care industries.</u></p>	
	<p>Policy 6.14.2.2</p> <p><u>Promote ways to protect the community population from the known hazards of tobacco exposure in the form of second and third-hand smoke where they live, work, and play.</u></p>	Measure HS-EE
	<p>Policy 6.14.2.3</p> <p><u>Promote ways to protect the community and the environment from the hazards associated with tobacco products that fall under the classification of mixed hazardous waste, subject to 22 California Code of Regulation Section 66261.9, such as single use tobacco products containing but not limited to, plastic, cellulose acetate or other fibrous plastic material, or any organic or biodegradable material, and electronic smoking devices that are mixed hazardous waste products, including cartridges that are not designed to be refilled.</u></p>	Measure HS-EE
High Wind	<p>Policy 6.15.1.1</p> <p><u>Adopt and enforce regulations governing construction and retrofitting of residential and commercial infrastructure to prevent wind damage in high-risk areas.</u></p>	Measure HS-G
Severe Weather	<p>Policy 6.16.1.1</p> <p><u>Adopt and enforce regulations governing construction and retrofitting of residential and commercial infrastructure to protect against the impacts of severe weather.</u></p>	Measure HS-G
	<p>Policy 6.16.1.2</p> <p><u>Facilitate the designation and operation of emergency centers that are both convenient and ADA accessible to prioritize and protect the needs of at-risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged populations from severe weather hazards.</u></p>	Measure HS-MM
	<p>Policy 6.16.2.1</p> <p><u>Organize inclusive outreach to at-risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged populations to share information about emergency centers and the details and benefits of 72-hour emergency kits and to provide meaningful opportunities to engage in emergency planning efforts.</u></p>	Measure HS-MM
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	<p>Policy 6.17.1.1</p> <p><u>Identify natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions when considering restoration, infrastructure, or engineering improvements that may be used as an adaptation project component proposed by the Transportation, Environmental Management, and Chief Administrative Office. Where feasible, the adaptation component shall use existing natural features and ecosystem processes, or the restoration of natural features and ecosystem processes, when developing alternatives for consideration.</u></p>	Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-JJ

<p>Policy 6.17.1.2 <u>Implement any recommendations and mitigation actions of the LHMP that may provide climate change adaptation throughout the County.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-JJ</p>
<p>Policy 6.17.1.3 <u>Continue to enforce building codes that will help ensure buildings can adequately withstand damage during hazard events.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-G, Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-II, Measure HS-JJ</p>
<p>Policy 6.17.1.4 <u>Locate new essential public facilities outside of areas exposed to the climatic hazards of climate change or identify methods to minimize damage if these facilities are in areas exposed to climatic hazards.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-AA, Measure MS-II, Measure HS-JJ</p>
<p>Policy 6.17.1.5 <u>Promote climate change and resilience awareness education about the effects of climate change-induced hazards and ways to adapt and build resiliency to climate change.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-JJ</p>
<p>Policy 6.17.1.6 <u>Regularly (at minimum every 8 years) update the County’s Climate Vulnerability Assessment or regularly update (at minimum every 5 years) the County’s LHMP to incorporate the best available public information from federal, state, and regional agencies on the effects of climate change to keep the climate adaptation strategies in the LHMP and the Safety Element current and relevant to the community’s risk.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-JJ</p>
<p>Policy 6.17.1.7 <u>Partner with academic institutions and the El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office to develop monitoring projects that help agricultural operators use climate information to detect and plan for forecasted weather and climate impacts associated with extreme heat events, warm nights, periods of drought, and cold temperatures that can impact agricultural and crop commodities.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-JJ</p>
<p>Policy 6.17.1.8 <u>Prioritize County programs and grant opportunities and other equitable project improvements or investments that address climate change impacts and support climate resiliency for at-risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged communities, such as seniors, children, outdoor workers, individuals with existing health conditions, those with access and functional needs, and lower-income residents.</u></p>	<p>Measure HS-AA, Measure HS-JJ</p>

2.7 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update includes an implementation program that contains new and revised implementation measures. An implementation measure is an action, procedure, program, or technique that carries out the general plan policies outlined in the element. Each policy must have at least one corresponding implementation measure; implementation measures may also support more than one policy statement.

All existing implementation measures in the current Safety Element update would remain, as implementation for many of these measures is ongoing. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update includes 41 implementation measures, including 24 implementation measures from the current Safety Element and 17 revised and/or new implementation measures. The new and revised implementation measures proposed in the Safety Element update are listed below:

- **MEASURE HS-Y:** Update the County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.09, Defensible Space Ordinance to incorporate fire safe regulations that meet or exceed the minimum requirements for Fire Safe Regulations (14 CCR Section 1270.00) for projects in SRAs or VHFHSZs. [Policies 6.2.1.3, 6.2.1.4, and 6.2.1.5]
- **MEASURE HS-Z:** Draft development standards and coordinated emergency notification and evacuation plans and procedures that apply across jurisdictional boundaries for wildfire protection and to protect high-density residential and affordable housing developments located within infill locations that are within the WUI, SRA, or VHFHSZs and have adequate access, defined evacuation routes, and sufficient water supplies and infrastructure. [Policies 6.11.1.1, 6.11.1.2, 6.11.1.3, 6.11.2.1, 6.11.2.2, 6.11.2.3, 6.11.2.4, and 6.11.2.5]
- **MEASURE HS-AA:** The County shall coordinate climate resiliency efforts with federal, states, and local climate collaboratives, such as the Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (CAMP) and other regional organizations. [Policies 6.17.1.1-6.17.1.8]
- **MEASURE HS-BB:** The County shall designate facilities that can be used as cooling or warming centers or resilience hubs and ensure they are equipped with backup power supplies, including on-site renewable energy generation and energy back-up storage systems. [Policies 6.1.2.1, 6.13.1.1, and 6.13.1.2]
- **MEASURE HS-CC:** Continue to promote water conservation programs to reduce agricultural and residential water use in the County. [Policies 6.10.1.1-6.10.1.5 and 6.10.2.1]
- **MEASURE HS-DD:** Support El Dorado County Water Agency during updates to its County-wide water resources development and management program and Regional Drought Contingency Plans to coordinate ongoing efforts and to plan for potential water shortages and to promote sustainable, long-term drinking water supply for County residents and businesses. [Policies 6.10.1.1-6.10.1.2, and 6.10.2.2]
- **MEASURE HS-EE:** Support free or reduced-cost vaccinations for vector-borne diseases are made available to County residents. [Objective 6.14.1]
- **MEASURE HS-FF:** Review and update emergency operation plans, emergency response and evacuation plans, and related procedures at least every 5 years to reflect current conditions and community needs. [Policies 6.11.2.3, 6.11.2.4, and 6.11.2.5]
- **MEASURE HS-GG:** Work with El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA) to develop Drought Task Force and implement the County El Dorado County Drought Resilience Plan [Policies 6.10.2.4 and 6.10.2.3]
- **MEASURE HS-HH:** Continue implementation and regular updates of the County's Stormwater Management Plan to address how existing best management practices (BMP) and stormwater design may be anticipated to change under future climate conditions. [Objective 6.4.2]
- **MEASURE HS-II:** Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2, Consideration and Discussion of Significant Environmental Impacts, lead agencies should make a good faith effort to analyze potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that a project may

cause by placing projects in hazardous locations, including locations potentially affected by hazards that result from climate change. [Policies 6.15.1.1, 6.17.1.3, and 6.17.1.4]

- **MEASURE HS-JJ:** Educate County decision makers, departments, and staff on climate change science, climate projections, and adaptation and mitigation actions that minimize natural hazard impacts and support climate resiliency. [Policies 6.17.1.1-6.17.1.8 and 6.12.1.1]
- **MEASURE HS-KK:** Identify funding opportunities to support biomass utilization within the County and continuing to use biomass as a component in projects. [Policies 6.2.4.5, 6.12.1.2, 6.12.2.1, and 6.12.2.2]
- **MEASURE HS-LL:** Implement measures that support safe evacuation education and planning, including but not limited to efforts to notify residents who live in neighborhoods with one means of egress, prioritizing defensible space inspections, and implementing vegetation management and fuel reduction projects in and around identified neighborhoods. [Policies 6.11.1.1 and 6.11.1.2]
- **MEASURE HS-MM:** Conduct a survey targeting individuals and communities with access and functional needs to inform emergency evacuation and shelter requirements. This includes but is not limited to assessing needs related to transportation, access to emergency facilities, and necessary capacities. [Policies 6.1.2.1, 6.11.1.2, 6.16.1.2, and 6.16.2.1]
- **MEASURE HS-NN:** Develop a Mass Evacuation and Sheltering Plan that addresses the needs of at-risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged people and individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs. [Policy 6.1.2.1]
- **MEASURE HS-OO:** Require Fire Protection Plans for new development to comply with fire protection standards and identify adequate infrastructure for the following:
 - 1) Location of anticipated water supply,
 - 2) Water flow for fire suppression needs,
 - 3) Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies,
 - 4) Fuel modification and defensible space,
 - 5) Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads,
 - 6) Visible home and street addressing and signage, and
 - 7) Community fire breaks and discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained. [Policies 6.2.3.5 and 6.2.3.6]

2.8 Required Actions

The County would be required to consider the Addendum in conjunction with the certified General Plan EIR prior to taking action to adopt the 2024-2032 Safety Element Update. No other County actions would be required.

3.0 CEQA Analysis

3.1 Environmental Analysis

The General Plan contains policies related to land use; transportation and circulation; housing; public services and utilities; public health, safety, and noise; conservation and open space; agriculture and forestry; parks and recreation; and economic development. The General Plan is largely designed to be self-mitigating by incorporating policies and implementation measures that address and mitigate related environmental impacts, such as zoning codes and design standards.

As previously described in Section 1.1, this Addendum to the Final EIR of the County's General Plan addresses the proposed revisions to the Safety Element. Table 2-1 shows the new and revised Safety Element policies that meet statutory requirements as well as the implementation measures that carry out each policy. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update aims to address wildfire hazards, climate change adaptation, evacuation planning, and plan integration through new and revised goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures that mitigate those risks and remain compliant with current State

law. The updated 2024-2032 Safety Element would not result in physical changes to the environment but encourages the mitigation of foreseeable risks to the County's assets and resources.

Policy 6.1.2.1 involves supporting an emergency mass evacuation and sheltering plan that prioritizes the needs of at-risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged people and individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs, and other special needs by providing meaningful opportunities in emergency planning efforts. Policy 6.2.1.3 requires all existing and new residential development in SRAs and/or VHFHSZs to enforce fire-resistant landscaping and defensible space requirements that meet or exceed Title 14, Code of California Regulations (CCR), Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270) (State Minimum Fire Safe regulations) and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction around Buildings and Structures Regulations). Policy 6.3.1.4 enforces the California Uniform Building Code and general building design and construction requirements related to life safety to address seismic risks associated with ground shaking.

Further, Policy 6.10.11 encourages structural and nonstructural flood management methods to enhance water storage and groundwater recharge. Policy 6.11.1.2 involves identifying rural neighborhoods, mobile home parks, including senior communities, and public facilities that support at-risk populations (at-risk population facilities include, without limitation, pre-schools, public and private primary and secondary schools, before and after school care centers with 12 or more students, daycare centers with 12 or more children, group homes, and assisted living residential or congregate care facilities with 12 or more residents) that are located within an area classified as an SRA (Public Resources Code Section 4102) or land classified as a VHFHSZ with limited accessibility or a single access point and implement an evacuation plan that consists of evacuation zones, routes, or shelter-in-place plans depending on the hazard event. Policy 6.17.1.6 involves regularly (at minimum every 8 years) updating the County's CVA or regularly update (at minimum every 5 years) the County's LHMP to incorporate the best available public information from federal, state, and regional agencies on the effects of climate change to keep the climate adaptation strategies in the LHMP and the Safety Element current and relevant to the community's risk.

The majority of the implementation measures would also mitigate foreseeable risks to the County's assets and resources. Measure HS-Y involves updating the County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.09, Defensible Space Ordinance to incorporate fire safe regulations that meet or exceed the minimum requirements for Fire Safe Regulations for projects in SRAs or VHFHSZs. Measure HS-Z involves drafting development standards and coordinated emergency notification and evacuation plans and procedures that apply across jurisdictional boundaries for wildfire protection and to protect high-density residential and affordable housing developments located within infill locations that are within the WUI, SRA, or VHFHSZs and have adequate access, defined evacuation routes, and sufficient water supplies and infrastructure. Measure HS-AA and Measure HS-JJ involve coordinating climate resiliency efforts with federal, states, and local climate collaboratives and educating County decision makers on climate projections and mitigation actions. Similarly, Measure HS-LL involves implementing measures that support safe evacuation education and planning, including but not limited to efforts to notify residents who live in neighborhoods with one means of egress, prioritizing defensible space inspections, and implementing vegetation management and fuel reduction projects in and around identified neighborhoods.

Other implementation measures center on protecting vulnerable populations, enforcing fire protection standards, and coordinating with key state and regional agencies on planning efforts. Measure HS-NN involves developing a Mass Evacuation and Sheltering Plan that addresses the needs of at-risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged people and individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs. Measure HS-OO requires Fire Protection Plans for new development to comply with fire protection standards and identify adequate infrastructure. Measure HS-DD involves supporting El Dorado County Water Agency during updates to its County-wide water resources development and management program and Regional Drought Contingency Plans to coordinate ongoing efforts and to plan for potential water shortages and to promote sustainable, long-term drinking water supply for County residents and businesses. Measure HS-FF involves reviewing and updating emergency operation plans, emergency response and evacuation plans, and related procedures at least every 5 years to reflect current conditions and community needs. Measure HS-HH involves continual implementation and regular updates of the County's Stormwater Management Plan to address how existing best management practices (BMP) and stormwater design may be anticipated to change under future climate conditions.

The 17 new and revised implementation measures represent minor changes that allow the County to update its policies and goals to minimize public health and safety hazards for present and unexpected

future conditions. Changes related to fire hazard policy align with regulations that the County must already comply with as required under the State Fire Safe Regulations. These minor revisions include new and updated maps, updated wildfire information such as ignition sources and hazard reduction measures, updated hyperlinks to online sources, and identification of single egress neighborhoods pursuant to SB 99. Climate adaptation updates address the consideration of climate change impacts, adaptation strategies in long-range planning decisions, collaboration with community-based organizations and climate collaboratives, protecting vulnerable communities from climate impacts, prioritizing nature-based and natural infrastructure solutions, and promoting community awareness and public education around climate resilience. Evacuation planning policy updates include the identification of residential neighborhoods without at least two means of egress and the identification of evacuation locations and routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. This includes mapping identified residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes, identifying potential evacuation locations, outlining a process to evaluate the capacity, safety, and viability of evacuation routes under a range of emergency scenarios in the LHMP, and establishing a program that would ensure a capacity-based evaluation of the County's evacuation network upon each subsequent Safety Element update.

Moreover, these new and revised goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures would complement the LHMP requirements and promote plan integration (AB 2140). New topics covered in the proposed Safety Element includes all the existing topics addressed in the current element, in addition to topics currently addressed in the County's LHMP, such as drought and water supply, evacuation accessibility, agricultural and forestry disease and tree mortality, extreme heat, human health hazards, high wind, severe weather, and climate adaptation and resiliency.

The proposed Safety Element update also only updated goals and objectives, policies, and implementation measures for natural hazards. There were no revisions to the noise, hazardous materials, air quality, aviation-related hazards, or highway safety policies. As a result, the development of new policies and implementation measures, and modification to the existing policies would not result in any physical impacts on the environment. Further, policies identified in the General Plan EIR to reduce physical environmental effects would continue to apply to future development and would reduce impacts to the same significance level as identified in the General Plan EIR.

As the proposed Safety Element does not change any physical environmental conditions, the impacts would be no more substantial than those analyzed in the General Plan EIR. While new goals and policies would establish new requirements or standards; they would not approve or authorize a specific project, and any specific projects would be subject to environmental review on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, there would be no new impacts associated with the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element Update. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element does not change any physical environmental conditions and the impacts of the proposed Safety Element update would be no more substantial than analyzed in the General Plan EIR. No new mitigation measures are necessary.

3.2 Finding

The discussion in this Addendum confirms that the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element has been evaluated for significant impacts pursuant to CEQA. The discussion is meaningfully different than a determination that a project is "exempt" from CEQA review, as the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element update is not exempt. Rather, the determination here is that the 2004 General Plan EIR evaluated the physical impacts likely to result from future development. As the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element does not result to any physical changes to the environment, the General Plan EIR provides a sufficient and adequate analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element.

There are no substantial changes in the circumstances or new information that was not known and could not have been known at the time of the adoption of the General Plan EIR. The proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element consists entirely of new and revised goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures related to fire hazards, geologic and seismic hazards, flooding, and evacuation accessibility and represents no change from the impacts that were assumed and analyzed by the General Plan EIR.

As a result, and for the reasons explained in this Addendum, the proposed 2024-2032 Safety Element would not cause any new significant environmental impacts or substantially increase the severity of significant environmental impacts disclosed in the General Plan EIR. Thus, the proposed Safety Element update does not trigger any of the conditions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 thereby allowing the preparation of a

SEIR, and the appropriate environmental document as authorized by CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(b) is an Addendum.

The following identifies the standards set forth in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines as they relate to the proposed project. The text that follows the provisions of the law relates to the proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element.

1. No substantial changes are proposed in the project which would require major revisions of the EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

As shown in Table 2-1, the policy changes included in the proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element are limited to complying with State law and are mostly under discretion of the California BOF. A majority of the wildfire requirements and standards are already being implemented by the County. The proposed project would not result in changes to the physical environment or approval of any development project. All development in the County must be consistent with the General Plan, and if the development project requires a discretionary action, the project would also be subject to CEQA.

The proposed changes to the County Defensible Space Ordinance identified in Table 2-1 represent modification of an existing policy to either streamline development that is already allowed or make the code consistent with State law or implement new programs. All of the new and revised policies and implementation measures proposed in the 2024–2032 Safety Element update aim to mitigate current hazard conditions and risk in the County and there would be no change in the physical environment associated with these policy revisions. Therefore, policies identified in the General Plan EIR to reduce physical environmental effects would continue to apply to future development and would reduce impacts to the same significance level as identified in the General Plan EIR.

2. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR.

As shown in Table 2-1, the proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element programs are similar to and improve upon the existing policies of the General Plan. The proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element includes 66 new policies, 5 revised policies, and 17 new implementation measures. The proposed policy revisions address existing and future public health and safety hazards and are intended to further reduce potential hazards related to wildfire, flooding, climate change, and severe weather hazards. As stated previously, these amended and new programs would not result in any physical impacts on the environment.

3. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR.

The General Plan EIR identified significant impacts for land use; agriculture and forestry; visual resources; traffic and circulation; water resources; utilities; public services; human health and safety; geology, soils, and mineral resources; noise; air quality; biological resources; and cultural resources. The policies identified in the General Plan EIR to reduce physical environmental effects would also apply to the proposed project. Because the proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element exclusively involves creation of new policies and revisions to existing policies, the amended programs identified in Table 2-1 would not result in new developments or result in physical changes to the environment and there are no new or more severe significant impacts associated with the proposed project.

4. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

The proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element includes policy-level changes that are limited to compliance with State law and would not result in physical changes to the environment that were not previously disclosed in the General Plan EIR. Moreover, the proposed Safety Element update would not create new impacts or the need for additional mitigation measures. The policies identified in the General Plan EIR to reduce physical environmental effects address significant impacts for land use; agriculture and forestry; visual resources; traffic and circulation; water resources; utilities; public services; human health and safety; geology, soils, and mineral resources; noise; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources. These policies in the General Plan EIR would continue to apply with the implementation of the proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element.

The County is required to adopt a Safety Element, and the element must be reviewed and certified by the El Dorado County Planning & Building Department and subsequently the County Board of Supervisors. There is no feasible alternative to adopting a Safety Element. As with the existing Safety Element evaluated in the General Plan EIR, the proposed 2024–2032 Safety Element update does not result in significant environmental impacts; therefore, there is no need for new mitigation measures.

5. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

The proposed project would have the same significant impacts as the previously certified General Plan EIR and all associated policies identified in the General Plan EIR to reduce physical environmental effects would continue to apply. As stated in the response to Standard 4, there are no new significant impacts resulting from adoption of the 2024–2032 Safety Element; therefore, there are no new mitigation measures or alternatives to the proposed project.

4.0 REFERENCES

- Draft EIR for the El Dorado County General Plan, May 2003
([https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/draft_environmental_impact_report_\(deir\).aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/draft_environmental_impact_report_(deir).aspx))
- Draft EIR for the El Dorado County General Plan, May 2003
([https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/draft_environmental_impact_report_\(deir\).aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/draft_environmental_impact_report_(deir).aspx))
- Final EIR for the El Dorado County General Plan, January 2004
([https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/final_environmental_impact_report_\(eir\).aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/final_environmental_impact_report_(eir).aspx))
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the El Dorado County General Plan, January 2004 (https://www.edcgov.us/government/planning/staffreport7-2004/documents/Att2_ExC_MMRP.pdf)
- Findings of Fact and Statement, July 2004
(https://www.edcgov.us/government/planning/staffreport7-2004/documents/Att1_ExB_Findings.pdf)
- Statement of Overriding Considerations for the General Plan, July 2004
(https://www.edcgov.us/government/planning/staffreport7-2004/documents/Att1_ExA_Overrides.pdf)

5.0 REPORT PREPARATION

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